Message Text

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R 311356Z JAN 77 FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3922 INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS BE AMEMBASSY OSLO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE USMISSION NATO

CONFIDENTIAL COPENHAGEN 644

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: POL, MILI, DA, US

SUBJECT: DANISH DEFENSE SPENDING AND THE F-16

REF: SECSTATE 18895

- 1. APPRECIATE REFTEL WHICH SUMMARIZES UNDERLYING CAUSES FOR MANY OF THE DANISH CONCERNS OVER THE IMPACT OF THE F-16 PURCHASE ON THE TOTAL DEFENSE BUDGET. THERE IS, NONETHELESS, ONE MAJOR CONCERN WHICH STILL REMAINS TO BE ADDRESSED, I.E., THE PERCENT TO WHICH THESE COSTS WILL BE OFFSET BY DANISH CO-PRODUCTION.
- 2. PARA THREE OF DRAFT LETTER TO SECDEF BROWN (COPENHAGEN 0418) REFLECTS THE EPG CONCERN, WITH DENMARK BEING BY FAR THE MOST VOCAL ADVOCATE. THE PERSONAL CONCERN OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE MOELLER WAS REPORTED IN COPENHAGEN 0251.
- 3. THE NON-COMPETITIVENESS OF EUROPEAN PRODUCTION BUILT INTO THE SYSTEM BY CONTRACTOR AND SUB-CONTRACTOR LOADINGS, MENTIONED IN REFTEL, IS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE PROBLEM. DANES ARE UNEASY BECAUSE THERE IS, AT THIS POINT, NO BAR GRAPH--NO OFFICIAL REPORTING ON THE STATUS OF CO-PRODUCTION--NO YARDSTICK BY WHICH TO MEASURE U.S. (AND GD) ACHIEVEMENT IN THIS AREA.

4. IMMEDIATELY BEHIND SUCH A YARDSTICK SHOULD COME A STATEMENT OF U.S. INTENTIONS REGARDING CONTINGENCY

PLANNING FOR INCREASED PARTICIPATION WHERE NECESSARY.
ARE ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS, OR SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN
PRESENT CONTRACTS, BEING CONSIDERED FOR DENMARK?

5. THE MOST "FUNDAMENTAL" CONCERN OF THE DANES IS THAT THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE ENOUGH OF THE 58 PERCENT OFFSET GUARANTEED THE EPG AS A WHOLE. THEY CLAIM THAT IT IS POLTICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY NECESSARY HERE FOR THE DANISH GOVERNMENT TO BE ABLE TO SHOW THAT DENMARK'S SHARE APPROACHED THE OVERALL 58 PERCENT LEVEL.

6. WE HOPE THAT SECDEF REPLY TO EPG MINISTERS OF DEFENSE LETTER WILL ALSO ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE DANISH CONCERN OVER OFFSET SHORTFALL. DEAN

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